

Esquire

Esquire's Ultimate Gift Guide for Cocktail Lovers



There's someone in your life that you owe all your Friendsgivings, stay-in happy hours, and afterparty night caps to. You know who I'm talking about, the man, woman, brother, *somebody* who's always inviting you over and telling you that you don't need to bring a thing. Because they've got a bar cart that's more stocked than a speakeasy during Prohibition.

As a professional drinker and an amateur at home bartender, I'm the expert on this subject. I've been in the kitchen training for the Master Chef of home bartending competition shows that don't exist yet. There's nothing more important to someone who loves a good drink, and loves to make one themselves, than a stocked bar cart. That doesn't just mean buy them award-winning bottles. (Though I have some great recommendations for bourbon, scotch, gin, and more.) You can dig deeper than that.

I'm here to help you pick out that gift that says *I thought about this for more than five minutes.* That said, booze is the ultimate last-minute holiday gift. Even in a small Southern puritan town, there's probably a liquor store that's open until midnight on Christmas Eve. Even if you don't have time to ship in some gorgeous glassware, you can get our recommendation on a bottle they'll love just as much. That's where our head is at. Whatever you decide, big or small, you can pat yourself on the back the next time your giftee makes you a drink, because you made that drink possible.



A FUN COCKTAIL BOX

Kástra Elión Vodka Espresso Martini Kit

\$99 AT [SHOP.KASTRAELION.COM](https://shop.kastraelion.com)

There's a reason the espresso martini had a major comeback in recent years. Any good at home bartender would love this kit by Kástra Elión Vodka to stir up their own anytime.